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Marlborough and Ramsbury Rural District Council

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1945

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 26th Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your district.

This report is brief and is according to instructions received from the Ministry of Health in their circular 28/46 dated Feb. 11th, 1946.

I have the honour to remain
Your obedient servant,
A. H. WILSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

Victoria Road, Salisbury.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population—Census 1931 : 10,721
Population—Estimated Mid. 1945—9,563
Area, 94,511 Acres
Rateable Value : £49,662
Sum represented by Penny Rate : £216 15 0

Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of 1945 : 3118

Births, 1945	Male.	Female.	Total.	
Live	104	94	198	(44 Illegitimate)
Still	2	4	6	(1 Illegitimate)

Birth Rate, 1945.		England and Wales	
Live	20.7	Live	16.1
Still	0.6	Still	0.46

Birth Rate		Average last 10 years 16.3
England and Wales		,, ,, 10 ,, 15.4

Deaths : Males 70. Females 73. Total 143.

Death Rate	14.9	Average last 10 years 11.9
England and Wales	11.4	,, ,, 10 years 12.2

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age : Males 6
Females 3. Total 9

Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)	45.4
England and Wales	46.0
Infantile Mortality Average last 10 years	50.0
England and Wales ,, ,, 10 years	52.4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total death
Scarlet Fever	6	6	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia	19 (3 Mil)	5 (3 Mil)	1
Erysipelas	1	1	0
Measles	25	0	0
Whooping Cough	76	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	0	0

Scarlet Fever. The whole district, like the Country generally, has remained remarkably free from this disease, only six cases being notified during the whole year.

Of these six, two were in sisters the same day and except these none had any connection with other cases.

Diphtheria. No case of this disease was notified during the year.

Pneumonia. Nineteen cases were notified to me, 3 of them being in Soldiers from Camps, only one of these died.

The Registrar General gives seven deaths in the district, but the others were either not notified to me (two) or inward transferable death (one) or types not requiring notification (three).

Erysipelas. The one case notified calls for no comment.

Measles. Twenty-five cases were notified which for this disease was a very small number. The Registrar General gives one death for this district, but I am unable to trace this death either among those notified or among the inward transferable deaths.

Whooping Cough. Seventy-six cases were notified to me and these were practically all either between January and May and mostly from Aldbourne or after October 15th from the Bedwyn or Froxfield areas.

Tuberculosis. Ten cases of all sorts were notified to me during the year, one of these left the district before the end of the year, while another one left early in 1946 and one died in May, 1946.

The details were:—

Notifications.	Male Pulmonary	1 between 15-20
		1 between 20-25 (a transfer)
		2 between 25-35
		1 between 35-45
	Female Pulmonary	3 between 25-35
	Male Non-Pulmonary	1 between 5-10
	Female Pulmonary	1 between 20-25

Deaths. The Male Pulmonary death given by the Registrar General was in a man aged 32 in an institution in an adjoining district and considered to belong to this district, and not notified to me, while the female was aged 25, notified in 1944.

Immunisation against Diphtheria. During the year 152 children under five and 44 between five and fifteen were immunised against diphtheria. This brings the total done in the district since the commencement of the Campaign in 1941 to 728 under five and 1624 between five and fifteen to the end of 1945.

Water Supply.

There are three Public water supplies in the district,

(1) Baydon (where the water is obtained from the Hungerford Rural District Council).

(2) Aldbourne, Ramsbury and Chilton Foliat, and

(3) Great Bedwyn and Chisbury.

These supplies are giving satisfactory service in both quantity and quality. They are regularly examined bacteriologically and have proved to be free from harmful pollution.

The following is a table shewing what properties and population are supplied by the public water supplies.

	Direct to Houses.		By means of Standpipe	
	Houses	Population	Houses	Population
Baydon	62	192	—	—
Aldbourne and Ramsbury	544	1686	—	—
Great Bedwyn	201	623	—	—
	807	2501		

The water is also supplied to farms for stock; to one Air Ministry undertaking and several Army Camps in the area.

The Council have adopted and passed on to the County Council a water scheme for the area lying West of Marlborough. The scheme provides for sinking boreholes at Clatford with a reservoir on the high ground at Manton. The water will be supplied to the Parishes of Preshute, West Kennett, Avebury, Winterbourne Bassett, Berwick Bassett, Winterbourne Monkton and Broad Hinton. Further, the Council have agreed to water schemes for supplying water to Froxfield, Little Bedwyn, Shalbourne, Ham, Grafton, Tidcombe, Ogbourne St George and Ogbourne St. Andrew.

There are also several hamlets with their own private water supplies which supply water to the neighbouring farms and cottages.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There are no public sewerage schemes in the District other than a system of sullage water drainage to cesspools and soakways at Great Bedwyn. This system was installed by the Savernake Estate many years ago and is inefficient and does not cope with the conditions of to-day.

The proposed public sewerage scheme for Aldbourne and Ramsbury is in progress. Arrangements have been made with owners regarding the purchase of land for outfall works and pumping station and the matter is going forward to the enquiry stage. (A public enquiry was held on 28th June, 1946.)

Closet Accommodation.

The gradual conversion of Privies to Earth Closets and Water Closets continues. During the year, one privy has been converted to an earth closet and ten earth closets into water closets. In all cases the conversion into water closets has taken place when cesspools have been constructed.

Public Cleansing.

At the beginning of December, the Council commenced their comprehensive refuse collection Scheme. The work is carried out by direct labour and covers the whole of the district. The three main Parishes receive fortnightly collections and the rest of the district four weekly. Since the commencement, the scheme has worked well and no complaints have been received. The whole of the refuse is taken to one central tip, where it is disposed of by controlled tipping. The salvage of waste paper and rags has also continued, but the quantity has not been as high as in the past.

Milk Supplies.

Routine inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies have been made and the general standard of cleanliness was maintained. The milking parlour appears to be gaining favour in this District especially with the larger milk producers. Four producers have changed from cowshed milking to milking in parlours. One producer has started producing Accredited Milk and six producers have started Tuberculin Tested milk production.

Legal Action.

No legal action was taken during the year.

Housing.

No statutory notices were served during the year.

31 houses were made fit for human habitation as a result of informal action during the year.

I have reported to the Council on several occasions that it is not possible to complete the Housing Survey as recommended by the "Hobhouse" report and confirmed by the Ministry of Health circular 64/44 dated May 24th, 1944 with the present staff, but on each occasion the Council has decided that the time has not arrived when any useful purpose would be served by increasing the staff to undertake this survey and so up to the end of 1945 only 28 houses had been inspected; however during 1946 Mr. Hudson has been doing his best to inspect as many as possible, dealing mainly with those houses which are in a bad state of repair.

No notices have been served as the result of the survey.

Overcrowding.

Some overcrowding exists in the District but does not appear to be on the increase. No action can be taken owing to the shortage of housing accommodation. Two cases have been abated by informal action and agreement.

New Housing Programme.

No new brick Council Houses were started by 31st December, but 6 Swedish Timber Houses were in course of erection in Shalbourne at that date.

In other cases sites for permanent houses have been agreed and tenders were asked for. These were for four houses at Lockeridge, three at Great Bedwyn and four at Grafton.

The provision of Council Houses at Ramsbury is held up pending an instalment of the sewerage scheme.

In addition to this, there were five houses at Ham and two houses at Shalbourne in course of erection under Sectiou 3 of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938. Plans for three others at Mildenhall were also approved.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

	No. of Inspections.	No. of Defects.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Remedied by 3.	Remedied by 4.	Remedied after Verbal instructions only.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nuisances ...	144	66	45	—	42	—	21
Slaughter-houses ...	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Knackers' Yards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Places where food is prepared ...	16	3	—	—	—	—	3
Cowsheds ... Dairies and Milkstores	225	61	20	—	19	—	41
Butchers' Shops ...	8	2	2	—	1	—	—
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses	27	6	2	—	2	—	4
Totals	422	138	69	—	64	—	69

Housing	111
Infectious Diseases	14
Factories	9
Unclassified Visits and Inspections— water samples, drain testing, refuse collection, byelaws etc.	411
Total	545

Total number of all visits and inspections 967

Milk and Dairies

Number of wholesale producers registered ...	140
Number of retail producers registered	46
Approximate number of cows	5600

Meat and Other Foods

All the slaughtering for the District is carried out in the Government slaughterhouse situated in the Borough of Marlborough.

Number of Licensed Slaughterhouses	Nil
Notices received of regular slaughter	Nil
Notices received of casual slaughter	4
Number of condemnations, Meat	2
Number of condemnations, other foods in shops etc. ...	7

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death.	M.	F.
All Causes	70	73
Typhoid and Paratyphoid		
Cerebrospinal Fever		
Scarlet Fever		
Whooping Cough		
Diphtheria		
Tuberc. of Respir. syst.	1	1
Other form of Tuberc.		
Syphilitic Diseases		
Influenza	2	
Measles	1	
Ac. Polio-myelitis and Enceph.		
Ac. Inf. Enceph		
Cancer of b. cav; and oesoph (M.) uterus (F.)	3	2
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	2	1
Cancer of breast		4
Cancer of all other sites	8	4
Diabetes		1
Intra. cran. vasc. lesions	7	10
Heart disease	26	23
Other dis. of circ. syst.	2	5
Bronchitis	2	5
Pneumonia	4	3
Other Resp. diseases		1
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1	
Diarrhœa under two years		1

Causes of Death	M.	F.
Appendicits		
Other digest. diseases	2	
Nephritis		
Puerp. and postabort. sepsis		
Other maternal causes		
Premature birth	3	
Cong. malf. birth. inj. Inf. dis.	1	2
Suicide		
Road Traffic Act	1	1
Other violent causes	1	
All other causes	3	9
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—		
Total	6	3
Legitimate	4	1
Illegitimate	2	2
Live Births		
Total	104	94
Legitimate	83	81
Illegitimate	21	13
Stillbirths		
Total	2	4
Legitimate	2	3
Illegitimate		1
Population	9,563	